



City of Mankato Community Garden Application Checklist

The City of Mankato recognizes and promotes the benefits of community gardening. A proposal for a community garden must include detailed descriptions and information as per the checklist below.

- Proposed Garden Site Plan – including size and location of garden, number and sizes of plots. Refer to site plan requirements in Chapter 10 of the Mankato City Code.
- Contact information for person(s) responsible for oversight and management of community garden.
- Statement acknowledging that all soil/mulch/manure, seeds, and supplies must be secured by the applicant. The City does not provide these items.
- List of proposed species for plantings. Plantings of illicit or illegal plant species is prohibited.
- Plan for provision of water (the City does not provide water service). Hoses and irrigation is not permitted.
- Fencing plan to limit access to garden. Include fence materials, height, and location. Fence height is limited to 6 feet. Fencing must meet urban design standards for appearance.
- Plan for control of weeds and pests. Use of organic methods and products is encouraged. Synthetic chemical pesticides, insecticides, fertilizers or weed repellents are prohibited.
- Synthetic fertilizer is prohibited. Use of organic methods and products is encouraged.
- Plan for sediment and runoff control from garden area.
- All residents using the community garden must sign a waiver to be submitted to the City agreeing to hold harmless the City of Mankato, including staff, Commissions, and City Council members, from any liability, damage, injury, vandalism, loss or claim that may occur in connection with the use of the community garden site.
- Pets are prohibited and children must be supervised at all times.
- Plots are limited to one plot per family or single resident.
- The City is not responsible for impacts due to weather, or from pests or deer.
- Plan for trash/litter control and ensuring cleanliness of garden site.
- Plan for end-of-season clean-up of site.

In addition, the following items must be addressed via signed, dated statement by applicant for the use of public property for a community garden:

- Statement agreeing to hold harmless the City of Mankato, including staff, Commissions, and City Council members, from any liability, damage, injury, vandalism, loss or claim that occurs in connection with the use of the community garden site.
- Statement that no retail sales are allowed and that garden plots are for private, personal and family use only. Distribution events are not allowed on the site.
- Statement that garden plots are open to all members of the public, and prohibiting discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or religious affiliation.
- Statement noting that garden plots which are abandoned or otherwise unkempt may be given to another interested party if the current plot holder does not clean up or use the plot within a week of contact being made by those responsible for oversight/management of the community garden.
- The use of public property for a community garden will be limited to nonprofit community organizations. Any fee charged by the organization must be commensurate to off-set operating costs of the garden. The City will request information on operating costs and proposed fees.

Proposals for community gardens may be submitted to:

City of Mankato
Community Development Department
10 Civic Center Plaza
Mankato, MN 56002-3368

City staff will review complete proposals and will forward recommendation to the City Council. Review will include the items listed on this checklist in addition to review of the City Code and other City plans in regards to approved use of public spaces and parks.